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### THAT REMINDS ME

That my friend Adams is generally up to snuff on most everything connected with the talking machine in every form and shape goes without saying. As far as new ideas, along the talking machine line are concerned, he is certainly climbing the liberty pole about six feet above the top, but at the same time I was put wise a few days ago to a new use for the talking machine that may be just a little ahead of my friend Adams, and here it is:

A lady in one of the eastern cities, who has a most charming baby, perfect in every respect save one and that is that she will not go to sleep except to the voice of its mother, and then only one certain lullaby has the charm to close the little eyelids. As a labor saver her husband purchased an automatic rocking cradle. There seemed to be nothing more to be desired but there was, and the lady herself supplied it. She went to a place where records for talking machines were made and had

them take a record of the particular lullaby that acted as a sleeping poison on her baby. The rest is easily told. She wound up the spring of the cradle and the spring of the talking machine, places the baby in the one and the lullaby record on the other and turns them loose. She says that it has never failed yet.

It is written that when the Lord created man he made him ruler over the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air and every living thing that was on earth. It is certainly too bad that gas and electric meters were not invented about that time so that when that creative fiat was issued they might have come under the control of man. What a lot of trouble it would have saved.

Any story about a gas or electric meter is always most interesting as there is always a weirdness about it, a sort of "the lady or the tiger" feeling that seems to be as if there was still something untold, and I

guess there is. If you are not capable of making both ends meet on eight dollars a week for Heaven's sake don't ever try to figure out a gas or electric meter. You would stand a better chance of getting inspiration out of the sphinx and be in a more normal condition in the end. But putting all joking aside, I heard a meter story the other day that made me turn clear around. I took more than a passing interest in it for the reason that my own meter has been acting funny lately or something connected with it has. A friend of mine, who does not live a thousand miles up one of the beautiful valleys back of Honolulu found that his electric bill for two months running was exactly the same for each month. That is where they, whoever "they" are, made the fatal mistake. I know that my own electric bill has been going up every month till it is now exactly three times as much as it was the first month I lived in the house, and I have not added another light nor burned a bit more current than I did a year ago. But this is not my story. I am telling of my friend's experience. He knew that there must be a difference in the two months' bill from the fact that there was an absence from the house for

a certain period although he did not state which month it was. The boy who read the meter the first month stated that he had read it the second month also. This was flatly contradicted by the lady of the house by a statement that the house was locked up and as the meter was inside the house the reading of it could not have taken place on the date named. My friend received no more satisfaction as a result of his "klick" than anyone else ever does who goes to the office with a klick on their meter. My friend came to the conclusion that as they could not read the meter, and the previous months bill looked pretty good that amount was entered up.

There is considerable agitation and plain talk going on here regarding the raising of eucalyptus trees in these islands. The many uses to which the wood of the eucalyptus can be put as well as the valuable oil from its leaves, and I may add that which I have never seen stated in its favor here before, that its bark is one of the best fire kindlers in the world. This is all very well for what is going on above ground in regard to the eucalyptus but what of the condition of affairs below ground? Far from it that I say one word that would discourage any industry that might be of benefit to these islands, but I do know that as a soil killer the eucalyptus is universally hated throughout California. As has been stated here by those versed in forestry that the eucalyptus is a heavy water drinker, and as such its roots will absorb all of the moisture in the ground. This would not be so bad if the roots would confine themselves to any respectable radius like a well behaved tree, but they do not. The roots of a well developed eucalyptus tree will spread from fifteen to forty feet in every direction and nothing that has to send its roots down for nourishment will live, much less thrive. This statement can be verified by examining the ground about the foot of any eucalyptus tree now growing in these islands.

Hawaii is not blessed with an over loading of good soil and there are quite a number of us living from what is produced and it would be well to "look before you leap" in regard to the planting of any more eucalyptus than there are here now.

lacked up by the opposition they must encounter from Japanese merchants, the amount of don't-care-whether-you-trade-here-or-not attention to customers certainly takes the cake.

Don't confound me with a "knocker." I am only, so far as I can do so, trying to correct an evil that probably looks bigger to the person outside the counter than it does to the person behind the counter. It is no wonder that trade is going to the Japanese and a good part of it is caused by inattention on the part of store employees toward customers who are willing to spend their money with a white man but do not propose to go down on their knees to have him take it. It is no use going into extreme details. Probably a good many others have had the same experience as the writer. One or two will be sufficient. Some little while ago I entered a store to make a purchase for a lady which would have come to about six dollars. I stood for some five minutes, the only prospective purchaser as the store was empty except for two clerks who lounged on the end of a counter a short distance from me. I had the money to spend and I concluded to spend it at some store where they would wait on me. That store lost six dollars. It was not long after that I had occasion to enter another store to make a purchase. The proprietor was talking with a friend not fifteen feet from me. After waiting a few moments I attracted his attention by rapping on the glass show case. He answered: "In a minute" and went on talking to his friend. I didn't happen to be in a "wait a minute" mood and I left the store. That store lost the sale of a diamond ring.

I can assure the store keepers of this city that I am acquainted with ladies in this city who will not go into certain stores on account of the fact that they do not receive prompt attention to their wants when there is nothing to prevent.

I did not intend to tell this story but seeing that there has been some talk in the papers lately in regard to liquor that was not up to the standard and was being sold against the law as not being the pure article I might as well let her loose.

Some time ago a Portuguese friend of mine invited me to visit his home on the outskirts of the city; he also promised to give me a drink of some wine that he had made himself. Those prospects seemed to be pretty bright and so I made the visit, having to hike it for quite a ways after leaving the carline which certainly made my mouth water for some of that home-made wine. My Portuguese friend started in talking about the wine as soon as I arrived and kept talking about it till I was in a condition to commit murder. He finally brought on some of the home-made wine. I looked good to me, as the color was just the right shade, but—any—did you ever ride along the country road in a buggy and see a rock ahead that you knew the wheel was going to hit and you got already for the bump and then have the wheel miss it? Well, that's just the way I felt when I tasted that home-made wine. If my Portuguese friend had another bunch of grapes he could have made another barrel of wine.

#### A New Bible Class.

What is known in Sunday school circles as the New Movement was introduced by Mr. R. Arthur Robbins, the superintendent, at the First Methodist Episcopal Sunday School last Sunday. A young men's Bible class to be known as "The Good fellows" with a membership of



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eighteen was organized after the meeting at 10 o'clock. Young men not plan of the New Movement. Considerable interest has already been aroused among the young men and the outlook for growth in membership is quite flattering. The following are the officers: President, Chas. Shepherd; Vice-president, C. O. Love; Secretary, Edward Tracy; Treasurer, Gay De Spain; Teacher, Frank L. Lee. The class meets in the parlors of the paragon next with her big hat between the sky door to the church every Sunday morning and the earth.

#### SHUTTING OFF THE SUNLIGHT.

Howell: "It is always darkest just before dawn."  
Pewell: "No, sir; it is always darkest when my wife comes along with her big hat between the sky door to the church every Sunday morning and the earth."